



Citizen Police Advisory Review Board Minutes

The Citizen's Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB) met on Tuesday, February 17, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at the Main Library, Basement, 101 N. Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members Present:

Susan Thornton, Chair
Stephen Nekolek
Suzanne Elefante
Cynthia Schiesel
Joaquin Murrieta, Vice Chair
Barbara O'Brien

Representing:

Mayor
Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6

Members Absent:

Jennifer Lopez Ward 3

Advisory Members Present:

Karen Brandel

Advisory Members Absent:

Kathleen May

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Present:

Captain Bill Richards, Tucson Police Department
Sergeant Matt Ronstadt, Tucson Police Department
Lieutenant Rick Hovden, Tucson Police Department
Officer Meredith Gierke, Tucson Police Department
Baird Greene, Principal Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office
Robert Barton, Office of the Independent Police Auditor

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members Absent:

Liana Perez, Independent Police Auditor
Officer Steven Beller, Tucson Police Department
Sergeant Sharon Callan, Tucson Police Department

Others Present:

Assistant John Leavitt, Tucson Police Department
Sergeant Steve Wheeler, Tucson Police Department
Ana Smith, Secretary, City Clerk's Office

2. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of January 20, 2009

Motion by Cynthia Schiesel, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, to approve the minutes of January 20, 2009, (Jennifer Lopez absent), with following corrections:

Page 2, Item #4, should read: Once the tests and exams had been successfully completed the recruits would be part of a **sixteen week training academy with a ~~weeks of a~~ five week post basic training** program at the police academy.

3. First Call to the Audience

There were no speakers.

4. Review of Citizen Comments submitted to Mayor and Council in reference to TPD for January as reported on February 1, 2009.

The Board asked about comment number seventeen which dealt with a constituent's disappointment on the rising crime rate in Tucson. The Board said it was noted on the report that the response was emailed to the constituent. The Board wanted to see what the response was to the constituent. TPD stated they did not have the response in front of them, but in the future all emailed responses would be included in the report.

The Board asked about comment number twenty which dealt with a constituent writing and filing a citizen's complaint on the unlawful activity of a police officer. TPD stated the complaint was given to chain of command for review and had not received a response.

The Board asked about comment number ten, which dealt with the complaint of a constituent of being harassed by her neighbors and the raw materials the neighbors were using for their barbecues. Office Meredith Gierke said she had contacted the constituent and found that a lot of the constituent's complaints were not police matters.

Chair Thornton announced that Assistant Chief John Leavitt was in attendance.

5. Criminal enterprises and coordination between law enforcement

Captain Bill Richards introduced Sergeant Steve Wheeler from the Special Investigations Section, Tucson Police Department (TPD).

Sergeant Steve Wheeler spoke about all the different areas in the Special Investigations Division. He stated he represented the Organized Crime Unit and under his supervision he had detectives that were multifaceted. He affirmed that all the different TPD units coordinate with each other and other federal, state and local agencies, using technology and resources available today.

6. Office of the Independent Police Auditor

- A. Outreach Report: Report of public outreach efforts by the office of the Independent Police Auditor during the previous month.

Robert Barton, Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA), stated in the month of January 2009; there was no outreach done.

- B. Monthly Contacts: Report on TPD-related contacts by members of the public with the office of the Independent Police Auditor during the previous month.

Robert Barton, Office of the Independent Police Auditor (IPA) stated the office received eight contacts during the month of January 2009, one case was forwarded to IA for review. He said the IPA had seven inquiries, four complaints, and conducted reviews of ten closed cases that were closed by Internal Affairs (IA). Mr. Barton performed random reviews of fourteen fair and thorough closed cases that were previously investigated by IA. He said that IPA agreed with the findings of those cases.

- C. Update on Cases:

1. Case# 08-0234

IPA disagreed with the initial closing of the case. The case was re-opened for investigation and currently opened.

2. Case# 08-0552

IPA agreed with the closure of the case.

3. Case# 08-0654

IPA agreed with the closure of the case.

4. Case# 08-0585

The case was forwarded to IA. The case was closed with a notification to the supervisor and IPA agreed with the findings of the case.

5. Case# 08-0698

Case# 08-0698 was closed pending resolution of original charges. The IPA agreed with the findings of the case.

7. Tucson Police Department:

- A. TPD Updates regarding events or developments relating to TPD during the prior month.

Captain Richards stated last year's awards ceremony was cancelled due to Officer Hite's death. He said the awards ceremonies for this year would be held at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) on Thursday, February 19, 2009, and TPD would be presenting awards to two hundred Officers.

Captain Richards stated Officer Steve Beller had not been in attendance because of an extended industrial medical leave.

- B. Office of Internal Affairs/Updates regarding events or developments relating to the Office of Internal Affairs during the prior month

Assistant Chief John Leavitt spoke about the City's budget cuts which may affect health insurance, furlough days, sick leave sell back, hiring and how it pertained to the Tucson Police Department (TPD) and the Tucson Fire Department (TFD).

8. Selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Motion by Susan Thornton, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, (Jennifer Lopez absent), to nominate Joaquin Murrieta as Vice Chairman.

Motion by Joaquin Murrieta, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, (Jennifer Lopez absent), to nominate Susan Thornton as Chairman.

9. Chief selection meetings report

Cynthia Schiesel stated there was no report to be given.

10. Meeting locations and parking

Chair Thornton stated there was no certain way for the City Clerk's Office to let the Board know how much the cost of using the library and parking was. However, the new parking fees for the first hour was free and after 5 p.m. there was no parking charge. She acknowledged the library was a reasonable place to meet and that there was a one time during the year the Board had to meet in a different location.

Chair Thornton affirmed the possibility of a meeting at the EPIC building where the property and evidence was stored. She said she wanted to look into having a meeting at that location and thanked the City Clerk staff for looking into the issue.

11. Recess

Motion by Joaquin Murrieta, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, (Jennifer Lopez absent), to forego recess.

12. Random Review of TPD Investigations:

1. Case# 08-0514

Motion by Cynthia Schiesel, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, (Jennifer Lopez absent), to find Case# 08-0514 to be a fair and thorough investigation.

2. Case# 08-0594

Motion by Cynthia Schiesel, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 5 to 0, 1 abstained, (Jennifer Lopez absent), to find Case# 08-0594 to be a fair and thorough investigation. (Barbara O'Brien abstained from voting, due to prior knowledge of the people involved in the case.)

3. Case# 08-0610

Motion by Joaquin Murrieta, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, (Jennifer Lopez absent), to find Case# 08-0610 to be a fair and thorough investigation.

13. Second Call to the Audience

There were no speakers.

14. Report from Chair / Announcements

A. Chair Thornton announced she had attended the Promotion Ceremony for Captain Reza.

15. Future Agenda Items

A. Presentation on the Gem Show in March by Captain Reza.

B. Presentation on the crime rate of murders that occurred in 2008.

C. Presentation on Property Crime Review focusing on the Gem Show.

16. Adjournment – 7:10 p.m.

Motion by Cynthia Schiesel, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0, (Jennifer Lopez absent), to adjourn.